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July 6, 2005

BY HAND DELIVERY

Division of Dockets Management, HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

**RE: DOCKET NO. 2005N-0137
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Abbott Laboratories, we request that the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") extend the last date for the submission of comments to the above-referenced docket from July 23, 2005, to a date 30 days after the publication of the transcript of the relevant workshop. As of the date of this letter, that transcript has not yet been published by the agency.

On May 23, 2005, FDA held a workshop on the therapeutic equivalence of levothyroxine sodium drug products. In its announcement of the workshop, FDA invited public comments on the proceeding and stated that the docket would remain open through July 23, 2005. 70 FR 20574 (Apr. 20, 2005). FDA has not yet released a transcript of the workshop; publication of that transcript is necessary to allow for meaningful comments on the proceedings and on the topics discussed. *See id.* at 20575 (stating that a transcript will made be available after the meeting); *see also* www.fda.gov/cder/meeting/levothyroxine2005.htm.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that FDA extend the last date for the submission of comments on the workshop until 30 days after the date on which the transcript is publicly released. We also request that FDA announce its decision on this request in the FEDERAL REGISTER. *Cf.* 21 CFR 10.40(b)(3)(ii) ("A comment

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time extension of 30 days or longer will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and will be applicable to all interested persons.”).

Sincerely,



David M. Fox
Brian R. McCormick
Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

cc: Neal B. Parker
Abbott Laboratories